

From: dougc@wt6.usdoj.gov@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/5/01 12:09am
Subject: RedHat/Microsoft proposal

I just read the alternative proposal offered by RedHat for providing computer systems and software to schools.

As a professional in the computer industry, I have seen the impact of Microsoft's monopolistic practices in ways that were not even addressed in the recent litigation. I have seen a generation of people entering the field of information technology that are poorly equipped to keep that industry moving ahead. They have been poorly equipped by a lack of exposure to development platforms, operating systems, and applications that do not originate from Microsoft Corporation. Microsoft has not only held back the industry through monopolistic business practices with their products, but has created a generation of people who are indifferent to alternatives.

The technology industry needs to be freed of the restraints that have been placed on it directly or indirectly by Microsoft. RedHat's proposal for providing the open source Linux operating system to school children can offer exposure to technology that may open new doors to a different future. By providing access to a platform of open technology and standards, tomorrow's workers and leaders in the technology business may be able to think beyond the boundaries that have been erected by Microsoft.

I hope you will seriously consider the alternative that has been offered by RedHat, as well as any others that fall along those lines.

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